



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



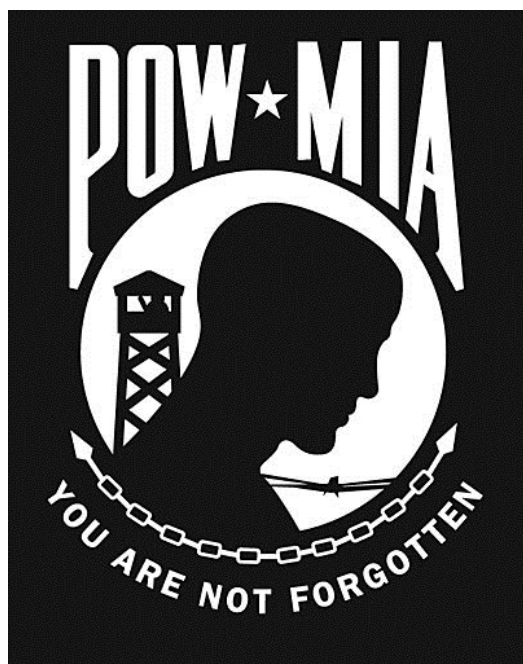
POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

At the request of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed Sept. 15, 2017, as "POW/MIA Recognition Day," calling on all South Dakotans to honor those men and women who fought bravely for our freedoms.

"While we are grateful to all of those who have served our nation, this day is designated to remember and recognize the sacrifices endured by those members of the Armed Forces of the United States who were held as prisoners of war or remain missing in action," the Governor said. "The state of South Dakota continues to support efforts to account for every service member classified as Missing in Action."

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, encourages all South Dakotans to set aside time Sept. 15 to honor the POW/MIAs who fought to protect our freedoms and lost theirs, as well as remember those engaged in today's struggle to guard our way of life for future generations.

"In their service to our country, former prisoners of war and those missing in action have sacrificed mightily to maintain the promise of liberty that we hold dear," said Zimmerman. "POW/MIA day affords all of us a great opportunity to reaffirm our vow to never forget the courage of our nation's staunchest defenders – our former POWs and MIAs. We owe them and their families our gratitude."



Inside this issue:

189th Activation Ceremony	2
SF Veterans Stand Down	2
VA 30-Day Challenge	3
Legal Clinics	4
VA Homeless Grants	5
Forever GI Bill	5
VA Crisis Line	6
Turner County Outreach	6
Cornerstone Receives VA Grant	7
Shaw Recognized	7
Upcoming Events	8
Upcoming Events	9



**You are cordially invited to attend
the activation ceremony for the**



**Co C(-) 1/189th AVN
Detachment 2 Co D 1/189th AVN
Detachment 2 Co E 1/189th AVN**

**Wednesday, 27 September 2017, 1000hrs
Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Theatre**

444 N. Mt. Rushmore Road, Rapid City, SD 57701

**The unit is deploying in support of
Operation Spartan Shield**



VETERANS STAND DOWN

**Sept. 22, 2017 9:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m. VFW
3601 S. Minnesota Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD**

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE

Shuttle service will be every 1/2 hour starting at
8:00 a.m. until
1:00 p.m. from the following locations:

- Vet Center on 49th and Carnegie
- VOA Dakotas Veteran Services Center at
14th and Cliff

On-the-spot help including brunch,
clothing, community housing referral, medical &
dental treatment, readjustment counseling, legal
assistance, and much more!

For more information call:
605-330-4552

VA UNVEILS CLAIMS SUBMISSION OPTION THAT PROMOTES TO COMPLETE CLAIMS WITHIN 30 DAYS

As part of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) continued efforts to improve timeliness of services for veterans and their families, the VA unveiled the Decision Ready Claims (DRC) initiative, a disability claims submission option with accredited Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) that promises to deliver faster claims decisions to veterans and their families.

"The DRC initiative is a collaborative effort between the VA and VSOs to help veterans receive faster decisions on disability claims," said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. "The VA works closely with participating VSOs to make sure they are properly trained in this new process and given the tools they need to participate successfully in the program on behalf of the veterans they serve."

Veterans who choose to submit their claim under DRC can expect to receive a decision within 30 days from the time the VA receives the claim. VSOs will ensure all supporting evidence — such as medical exams, military service records, etc. — is included with the claim submission. This advance preparation by the VSOs allows claims to be assigned immediately to claims processors for a quick decision.

DRC was first implemented May 1, 2017, at the St. Paul (Minn.) Regional Office, and is now available at all VA regional offices. While DRC is currently limited to claims for in-

creased compensation (commonly known as claims for increase), and requires Veterans to work with VSOs, the VA's goal is to expand the types of claims accepted under the initiative and allow veterans other ways to submit their claim under DRC.

DRC is another key step in aggressively modernizing the VA's benefits delivery to veterans in a fully digital operating environment. With electronic claims processing as a foundation, the VA's innovation will improve service to veterans, their families, and survivors.



Free Drop-In Legal Clinic



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA



State Bar of *South Dakota*

JOIN US ON:

- **September 21st, 2017** from 9am-3pm at the South Dakota Veterans Memorial Home located at 2500 Minnekahta Ave, Hot Springs, SD 57747. *Shuttles will be providing transportation from the Hot Springs VA to the Veterans Home.*
- **September 22nd, 2017** from 9am-3pm at the Rapid City VFW located at 420 Main St, Rapid City, SD 57701.

Join the South Dakota Military Legal Alliance, the Veterans Legal Education Group and the South Dakota Low Income Tax Clinic for a FREE LEGAL CLINIC. Legal professionals along with student attorneys will be onsite to address and support the Military community with any of their legal questions and needs.

FREE FOR ALL SERVICE MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND VETERANS!

EVENT CONTACT:

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VLEG President
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SUPPORTED BY:

Military One Source, South Dakota Young Lawyers Division, University of South Dakota School of Law, the South Dakota State Bar and the VA Black Hills Veterans Justice Outreach

VA AWARDS \$188 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDING TO HELP HOMELESS VETERANS

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced \$188 million in grants for two programs benefiting homeless veterans.

The grants were made through the Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program, awarded to community agencies providing services to homeless veterans.

Awards announced Monday will provide approximately \$185 million in per diem funding for 556 projects to community agencies that provide transitional housing and supportive care for homeless veterans. Awards were made to programs in 49 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Awards made in South Dakota this year include: Oglala Sioux Tribe in Pine Ridge and Cornerstone Rescue Mission in Rapid City.

In addition, approximately \$3 million in grant funding will be awarded to 13 community agencies that provide services for homeless veterans with special needs. The GPD Special Need funding provides additional operational costs for transitional housing and services for homeless veterans who fall under "Special Need" populations, including women, those with chronic mental illness and individuals who care for minor dependents.



"The GPD program has been instrumental in providing needed services to community organizations," said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. "We look forward to our continued partnership with the awardees as we work together to end veteran homelessness. Our goal is to help give at-risk veterans stable housing and a good start to independence."

Since the GPD program began awarding grants in 1994, approximately \$2 billion has been awarded to community organizations serving homeless veterans. The complete list of awardees may be found at <https://www.va.gov/homeless/GPD.ASP>. More information about VA's homeless programs is available at www.va.gov/homeless. Community organizations seeking details can visit VA's National Grant and Per Diem Program website at www.va.gov/homeless/GPD.ASP.

HELPFUL FOREVER GI BILL® LINKS

The VA has posted some helpful links for the new Forever GI BILL®. The President signed into law the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act also known as the "Forever GI Bill®," which will bring significant changes to Veterans education benefits. The law will allow more veterans to use the GI Bill ®and more time to use it. Some of the changes will go into effect immediately, and some are written to go into effect shortly after. These links provide the latest information that the VA has released.

<https://benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/ForeverGIBill.asp>

<https://benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/FGIBSummaries.asp>

VETERANS CRISIS LINE TO OPEN THIRD CALL CENTER IN TOPEKA, KANSAS

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is opening a Veterans Crisis Line (VCL) call center in Topeka, Kansas, the third such center nationwide, and expects to hire 100 employees to staff the center, located on the campus of VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System.

VCL currently operates two centers in Canandaigua, New York, and Atlanta, Georgia. The new call center, expected to open this fall, will give VCL the additional capacity as the VA expands the "automatic transfer" function, Press 7, to its Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) and Vet Centers.

The Press 7 function is already available at VA Medical Centers and provides immediate access to the crisis line from a main phone tree. Currently, CBOC and Vet Center phone systems do not provide that option, forcing veterans to take an added step by dialing 800-273-8255, and then pressing 1.

Since its launch in 2007, the VCL has answered more than 3 million calls and initiated the dispatch of emergency services to callers in imminent crisis more than 84,000 times. Since launching chat in 2009 and text services in November 2011, the VCL has answered nearly 359,000 and nearly 78,000 requests for chat and text services, respectively.

Veterans in crisis can call the Veterans Crisis Line for confidential support 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year at 800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat or text to 838255.

Veterans Chat

24/7 Confidential Support Is a Click Away



TURNER COUNTY RECOGNIZES VETERAN

Turner County VSO Tom Sparrow took time out of his busy schedule to visit a special 96-year old Army WAC.

Lois Tengquist served from April 1945 to September 1946 as a medical lab tech.

Thanks Tom for reaching out and thanking this special veteran for her service.



VA AWARDS GRANTS TO HELP HOMELESS AND AT-RISK VETERANS AND FAMILIES

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it has awarded \$343 million in grants to 288 nonprofit organizations to help low-income veterans and their families. South Dakota's Cornerstone Rescue Mission received \$769,050.

The grants were awarded under the VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program.

"With these important grants, we are able to leverage the expertise of local experts to help our most economically vulnerable veterans avoid or exit homelessness," said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. "This is another VA program that moves at-risk veterans toward housing and independence."

SSVF funding, which supports outreach, case management and other flexible assistance to rapidly re-house veterans who become homeless or to prevent veterans from becoming homeless, was awarded to organizations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

SSVF served more than 148,800 participants, including approximately 95,300 veterans and 31,950 children in fiscal year 2016. As a result of these and other efforts, veteran homelessness is down significantly since 2010.

In addition, approximately 360,000 veterans and their family members have been permanently housed, rapidly re-housed or prevented from falling into homelessness as a result of VA's homelessness programs and targeted housing vouchers through the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

These recipients competed successfully for grants under a Dec. 7, 2016, Notice of Fund Availability. The funding will support SSVF services in fiscal 2018.

Information about the SSVF program, including the complete list of grantees, may be found at <https://www.va.gov/homeless/SSVF/>.

SHAW RECOGNIZED FOR HIS SERVICE TO SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS

SDDVA Field Officer Kevin Swanson had the distinct privilege to present Harlan Shaw with a plaque of appreciation from the South Dakota Veterans Service Officers Association.

Harlan served as the Potter County VSO from 1991 to 2017.

The SDVSOA awards this recognition to VSOs that have served for more than ten years. The Department is appreciative of Harlan's commitment and dedication to South Dakota's veterans.



Upcoming Events

Sept 14—Watertown Veterans/First Responders Appreciation Day—SD Army National Guard, BG Ernie Edwards Readiness Center

Sept 15 POW/MIA Program—Sioux Falls Veterans Memorial Park—6:30 pm (CST)

Sept 18—Women Veterans Art Exhibit Open House—Wagner SDNG Armory—4:00 pm (CST)

Sept 20—Veterans Council Meeting—PVA Headquarters (209 N. Garfield in Sioux Falls) 10:00 am (CST)

Sept 20—VA Veterans Stand Down—McLaughlin City Auditorium (Main Street) - 10:00 am—2:00 pm (CST)

Sept 20—VA Veterans Stand Down—Bear Soldier City Auditorium—10:00 am—2:00 pm (CST)

Sept 21—VA Veterans Stand Down—Kenel Community Center—9:00 am—11:30 am (CST)

Sept 21—VA Veterans Stand Down—Wakpala Community Center—1:00 pm—3:30 pm (CST)

Sept 21—USD /State Bar Association Free Drop in Legal Clinic—MJFSV Home— Hot Springs—9:00 am (MST)

Sept 22 —USD /State Bar Association Free Drop in Legal Clinic—Rapid City VFW (420 Main)—9:00 am (MST)

Sept 22—VA Veterans Stand Down—Rock Creek Community Center—9:00 am—11:30 am (CST)

Sept 22—VA Veterans Stand Down—Running Antelope American Legion Post—1:00 pm—3:30 pm (CST)

Sept 22—Veterans Stand Down—VFW Post 628—Sioux Falls (3601 S. Minnesota Ave)—9:00 am (CST)

Sept 24—Gold Star Mothers Day

Sept 25—Women Veterans Art Exhibit Open House—VA Sioux Falls (2nd Floor Primary Care Addition)—4:00 pm (CST)

Sept 26-28 National Women Veterans Art Exhibit—VA Sioux Falls—9:00 am—3:00 pm (CST)

Sept 25-26—Aim to Win—Hunters Pointe Shooting Complex—Humboldt

Sept 29—Women Veterans Conference—Central Baptist Church—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CST)

Oct 5—Aberdeen Area Healthy Aging Resource Fair—Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Aberdeen (1620 NE Milwaukee Avenue) - 12:30—4:00 pm (CST)

Oct 6-8—Fall VFW Conference—Oacoma—Cedar Shores

Oct 7—Homecomings for VFW State Commander Williamson and VFW State Auxiliary President Alm—Cedar Shores—Oacoma—6:00 pm (CT)

Nov 4—Public Agent Orange Forum—Meade County Court House in Sturgis (2nd Floor Commissioners Chambers—1300 Sherman Street) 9:00 am and 1:00 pm (MT)

Nov 9-13—VFW Disabled Veterans Hunt—Gettysburg

Nov 11—SDSU Military Appreciation Day—Kickoff at 2:00 pm (CT)

Nov 11—American Heroes Outdoors Veterans Day Banquet—Aberdeen Elks Lodge 1046—5:00 pm (CST)

Nov 11-12—Sea of Goodwill Equine Experience Retreat—Joy Ranch—Watertown

Dec 2-3—Yellow Ribbon for the 153rd EN—Mitchell



Upcoming Events

2018

Jan 28-29—VFW Legislative Conference—Ft. Pierre

Feb 16-18 American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Oacoma

Jun 7-10—American Legion State Convention—Spearfish

Jun 14-17—VFW State Convention—Sioux Falls



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